

Licensing, Registration, & Labeling Guide for Fertilizing Materials

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Introduction

The Feed, Fertilizer, Livestock Drugs, Egg Quality Control Regulatory Services (FFLDERS) Branch of the Inspection Services Division manages a comprehensive fertilizing materials program that licenses individuals or companies who manufacture or distribute fertilizing materials, and registers labels for fertilizing materials that are sold or distributed into California.

This guide will assist firms and interested parties with the application process and provide them with a better understanding of the review and analysis undertaken by FFLDERS. It is designed to address many of the common pitfalls and questions regarding label registration, and save you months of valuable time and costly label revisions. Look for the italicized segments for helpful notes, but always refer to the Fertilizing Materials Law and Regulations for the entire labeling, licensing, and registration requirements.

Purpose of Licensing and Registering Labels for Fertilizing Materials

The purpose of this program is to:

- Promote the distribution of effective and safe fertilizing materials.
- Provide assurance to consumers that the products they purchase are properly identified, and the quality and quantity represented is valid.

Law and Regulations

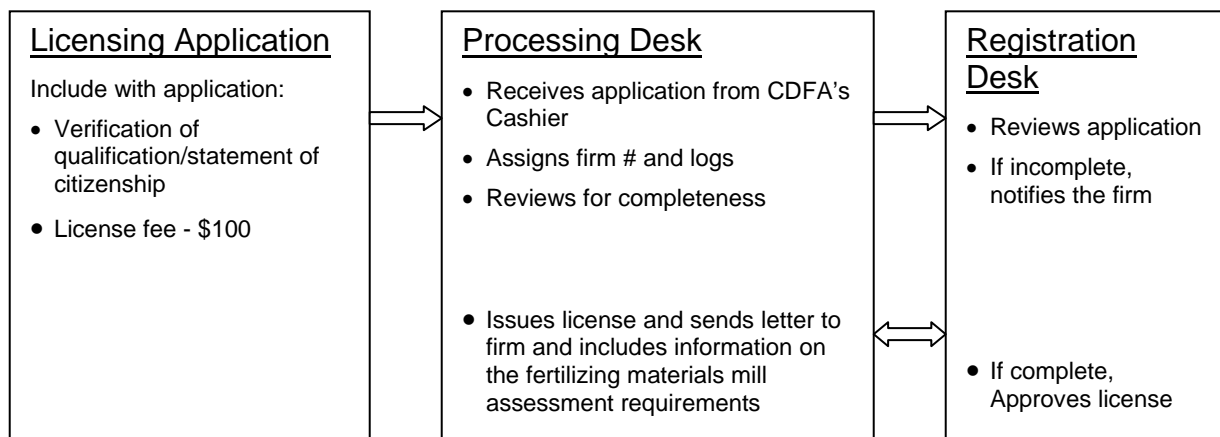
The Fertilizing Materials Law and Regulations can be found in PDF format on our website at: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/fflders/fertilizer.html>.

Licensing for Fertilizing Materials

An individual or company who manufactures or distributes fertilizing materials in California shall, before they engage in the activity, obtain a Fertilizing Materials License for each plant and business location that they operate. The license application is available on the FFLDERS website at http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/is/apply_register.html.

Please note: Any business or manufacturing location in California, other U.S. states, or another country, which manufacture or distribute fertilizing materials directly into California, or appear on the product label, must obtain a license from California.

A fertilizing materials license is valid for a two-year period from January 1, of each odd-numbered year to December 31, of the next even-numbered year.



Please Note: If your mailing address is a P.O. Box and you have another business location in the same city, you must obtain a license for the physical business location in that city. If your mailing address is a P.O. Box and you do NOT have a business location in that city, then please clarify in writing that there is no business location in the city with the P.O. Box. For example: If Company A operates out of Fresno, but has mail sent to a P.O. Box in Madera, then Company A should license the Fresno location and clarify in writing for FFLDERS that, "There are no business locations in Madera. This is a mailing address only."

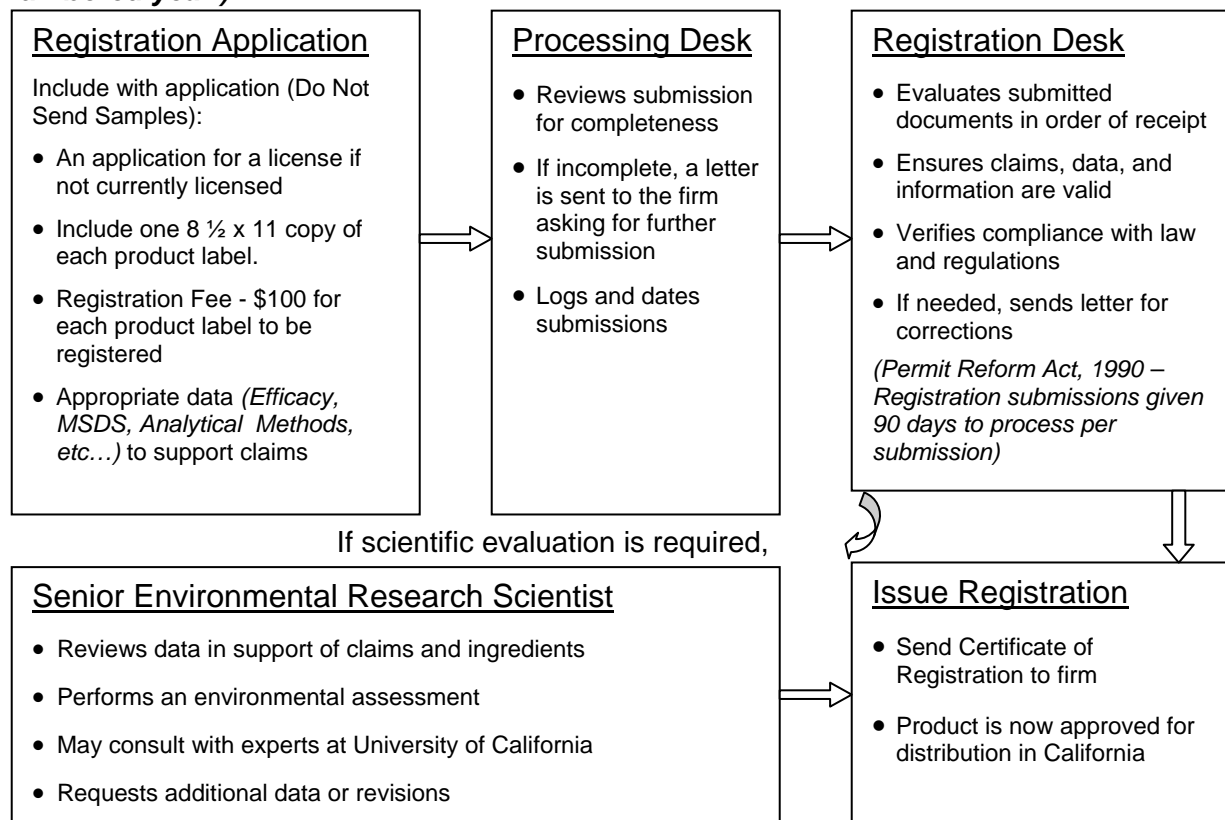
License Renewal

FFLDERS mails license renewal notices at the beginning of December of even numbered years. The renewal fee is \$100 per business location. Renewals are considered delinquent if received after February 1st and assessed a \$50 penalty. If the renewal remains delinquent past February 28th, of the odd-numbered year, then a penalty of \$100 per location is assessed.

Registration of Product Labels

Before a fertilizing material may be sold or distributed in California, the product label must be approved by FFLDERS. Specialty fertilizers (SF), packaged agricultural minerals (PAM), auxiliary soil and plant substances (ASPS), and packaged soil amendments (PSA) require registration. Registration is meant to ensure that the product label complies with the Fertilizing Materials Law and Regulations and that the product is deemed effective for its intended purpose. The registration application is available at: http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/apply_register.html.

Fertilizing materials registration is for a two-year period beginning on January 1, of each even-numbered year and expiring on December 31, of the next odd-numbered year. ***(Please note: Registrations commence upon approval and expire on December 31, of the next odd-numbered year.)***



Please note: Any changes made to the registered label must be reviewed and approved before the product bearing the amended label can be sold or distributed in California. Changes to the guaranteed analysis, derivation statement, name of product, list of ingredients, or active ingredient statement require a new submission for registration.

Registration Renewal

FFLDERS mails registration renewal notices at the beginning of December of odd-numbered years. The renewal fee is \$50 per product label. Renewals are considered delinquent if received after February 1st and assessed a \$50 penalty.

Specific labeling requirements: Commercial Fertilizers

Defined in Section 14563 of the Food and Agricultural Code, “means any substance which contains 5 percent or more of nitrogen (N), available phosphoric acid (P_2O_5), or soluble potash (K_2O), singly or collectively, which is distributed in this state for promoting or stimulating plant growth.”

Please note: Commercial fertilizer is only intended for commercial use and does not require registration. This includes agricultural production, golf course maintenance, or commercial landscaping. However, if it is marketed for home and garden use, then it classifies as a specialty fertilizer (see next page) and must be registered.

The following is required on a commercial fertilizer label, as specified in the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 2303:

1. **Product name** (*The name should not be misleading as to the purpose and guarantees*)
2. **Measurement**
 - a. **Net weight** (*U.S. & metric*)
 - b. **Volume** (*for liquid specialty fertilizers*) (*U.S. & metric*)
 - c. **Density** (*lbs/gallon at 68° Fahrenheit for bulk liquids only*).
3. **Grade** (*Should exactly match the guaranteed analysis for N-P-K*)
4. **Licensee's name and address** (*If both manufacturer and distributor are given, state "Guaranteed by:" in front of the appropriate company name*)
5. **A guaranteed analysis using the following format, terminology, and order presented:** (***Please note: Zero guarantees and guarantees below the set minimums should not be made on the label, unless they are exempt per Section 2307 of the CCR. If mention is made of a fertilizing material outside of the guaranteed analysis, a guarantee should be given for that material. For example: If a label guarantees values for magnesium and iron, but not sulfur, and then mentions the benefits of sulfur on the label, a value for sulfur should be guaranteed.***)

Guaranteed Analysis: (Guarantee minimums, if claimed)

The sum of the N + P + K values is equal to or greater than 5 percent and the product is intended for commercial use only.

Total Nitrogen (N)	X%	
X% Ammoniacal Nitrogen		<i>Please note that the sum of the guaranteed forms of nitrogen must equal the total nitrogen guarantee.</i>
X% Nitrate Nitrogen		
X% Water Soluble Nitrogen		
X% Water Insoluble Nitrogen		
Available Phosphoric Acid (P_2O_5)	X% (or, Available Phosphate (P_2O_5))	
Soluble Potash (K_2O)	X%	
Calcium (Ca)	X%	1.0000%
Magnesium (Mg)	X%	0.5000%
Sulfur (S)	X%	1.0000%
Boron (B)	X%	0.0200%- <i>If $\geq 0.1\%$, → WARNING,</i>
Chlorine (Cl)	X%	0.1000% <i>See Section 2300 (h) of the CCR.</i>
Cobalt (Co)	X%	0.0005%
Copper (Cu)	X%	0.0500%
X% Chelated Copper (<i>If guaranteed. Give chelating agent in the derivation statement.</i>)		
Iron (Fe)	X%	0.1000%
X% Chelated Iron (<i>If guaranteed. Give chelating agent in the derivation statement.</i>)		
Manganese (Mn)	X%	0.0500%
X% Chelated Manganese (<i>If guaranteed. Give chelating agent in the derivation statement.</i>)		
Molybdenum (Mo)	X%	0.0005%- <i>If $\geq 0.001\%$, → WARNING,</i>
Sodium (Na)	X%	0.1000% <i>See Section 2300 (i) of the CCR.</i>
Zinc (Zn)	X%	0.0500%
X% Chelated Zinc (<i>If guaranteed. Give chelating agent in the derivation statement.</i>)		

6. **Derivation Statement** (Derived from: ... list the ingredient sources for the above guarantees. Abbreviated chemical names, trade names, and trademarks are prohibited from the derivation statement.)

(Continue on next page)

Heavy metals: Effective January 1, 2002, the Fertilizing Materials Law and Regulations have been revised to include standards for heavy metals. These regulations are found in Sections 2302 and 2303 (s) of the CCR. The regulations require that in lieu of a statement on the label, each **inorganic** product containing **iron, manganese, zinc, or phosphates**, shall contain either the statement, "Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available by calling 1-800-XXX-XXXX," or the statement, "Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available on the internet at [http://www.\(add company name\).com](http://www.(add company name).com)."

Please note: The best (most uniform between all states) method for addressing heavy metals compliance is to state, "Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available on the internet at <http://www.aapfco.org/metals.htm>." If this method is used, submit a chemical analysis, at registration, to FFLDERS for ALL of the following metals: Arsenic (As), Cadmium (Cd), Cobalt (Co), Copper (Cu), Lead (Pb), Mercury (Hg), Molybdenum (Mo), Nickel (Ni), and Selenium (Se). This proactive action may save you months of valuable time and costly label revisions.

Specialty Fertilizers

Defined in Section 14563 of the Food and Agricultural Code, "means packaged commercial fertilizer labeled for home gardens, lawns, shrubbery, flowers, and other similar noncommercial uses. These products may contain less than 5 percent nitrogen (N), available phosphoric acid (P₂O₅), or soluble potash (K₂O), singly or collectively, detectable by chemical methods."

If secondary and micronutrients are claimed, the label shall guarantee values above specified minimums for all claimed nutrients. Acceptable secondary and micronutrients are: calcium, magnesium, sulfur, boron, chlorine, cobalt, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, sodium, and zinc.

The following is required on a specialty fertilizer label, as specified in CCR Section 2303:

1. **Product name** (*The name should not be misleading as to the purpose and guarantees*)
2. **Measurement**
 - a) **Net weight** (*U.S. & metric*)
 - b) **Volume** (*for liquid specialty fertilizers*) (*U.S. & metric*)
3. **Grade** (*Should exactly match the guaranteed analysis for N-P-K*)
4. **Licensee's name and address** (*If both manufacturer and distributor are given, state "Guaranteed by:" in front of the appropriate company name*)
5. **Purpose of product** (*Should not be misleading as to the guarantees*)
6. **Directions for use** (*Should be for the specific product*)
7. **A guaranteed analysis using the following format, terminology, and order presented:** (***Please note: Zero guarantees and guarantees below the set minimums should not be made on the label, unless they are exempt per Section 2307 of the CCR. If mention is made of a fertilizing material outside of the guaranteed analysis, a guarantee should be given for that material. For example: If a label guarantees values for magnesium and iron, but not sulfur, and then mentions the benefits of sulfur on the label, a value for sulfur should be guaranteed.***)

Guaranteed Analysis: (Guarantee minimums, if claimed)

Total Nitrogen (N)	X%	} <i>Please note that the sum of the guaranteed forms of nitrogen must equal the total nitrogen guarantee.</i>
X% Ammoniacal Nitrogen		
X% Nitrate Nitrogen		
X% Water Soluble Nitrogen		
X% Water Insoluble Nitrogen		
Available Phosphoric Acid (P ₂ O ₅)	X% (or, Available Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅))	
Soluble Potash (K ₂ O)	X%	

The sum of the N + P + K values can be equal to, greater than, or less than 5 percent. The key distinction is that the product is intended for home and garden use.

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Calcium (Ca)	X%	1.0000%
Magnesium (Mg)	X%	0.5000%
Sulfur (S)	X%	1.0000%
Boron (B)	X%	0.0200%- <i>If $\geq 0.1\%$, \rightarrow WARNING,</i>
Chlorine (Cl)	X%	0.1000% <i>See Section 2300 (h) of</i>
Cobalt (Co)	X%	0.0005% <i>the CCR.</i>
Copper (Cu)	X%	0.0500%
X% Chelated Copper (<i>If guaranteed. Give chelating agent in the derivation statement.</i>)		
Iron (Fe)	X%	0.1000%
X% Chelated Iron (<i>If guaranteed</i>)		
Manganese (Mn)	X%	0.0500%
X% Chelated Manganese (<i>If guaranteed. Give chelating agent in the derivation statement.</i>)		
Molybdenum (Mo)	X%	0.0005%- <i>If $\geq 0.001\%$, \rightarrow WARNING,</i>
Sodium (Na)	X%	0.1000% <i>See Section 2300 (i) of</i>
Zinc (Zn)	X%	0.0500% <i>the CCR.</i>
X% Chelated Zinc (<i>If guaranteed</i>)		

8. **Derivation Statement** (Derived from: ... list the ingredient sources for the above guarantees. Abbreviated chemical names, trade names, and trademarks are prohibited from the derivation statement.)

Heavy metals: Effective January 1, 2002, the Fertilizing Materials Law and Regulations have been revised to include standards for heavy metals. These regulations are found in Sections 2302 and 2303 (s) of the CCR. The regulations require that in lieu of a statement on the label, each **inorganic** product containing **iron, manganese, zinc, or phosphates**, shall contain either the statement, "Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available by calling 1-800-XXX-XXXX," or the statement, "Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available on the internet at [http://www.\(add company name\).com](http://www.(add company name).com)."

Please note: The best (most uniform between all states) method for addressing heavy metals compliance is to state, "Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available on the internet at <http://www.aapfco.org/metals.htm>." If this method is used, submit a chemical analysis, at registration, to FFLDRS for **ALL** of the following metals: Arsenic (As), Cadmium (Cd), Cobalt (Co), Copper (Cu), Lead (Pb), Mercury (Hg), Molybdenum (Mo), Nickel (Ni), and Selenium (Se). This proactive action may save you months of valuable time and costly label revisions.

Packaged Agricultural Minerals

Defined in Section 14512 of the Food and Agricultural Code, "means any substance with nitrogen (N), available phosphoric acid (P_2O_5), and soluble potash (K_2O), singly or in combination, in amounts less than 5 percent, which is distributed for farm use, or any substance only containing recognized essential secondary nutrients or micronutrients in amounts equal or greater than minimum amounts specified by the secretary, by regulation, and distributed in this state as a source of these nutrients for the purpose of promoting plant growth. It shall include gypsum, liming materials, manure, wood fly ash, sewage sludge not qualifying as commercial fertilizer, and captured dilute solutions." (***Please note: Bulk Ag. Minerals (more than 110 pounds) DO NOT require registration.***)

If secondary and micronutrients are claimed, the label shall guarantee values above specified minimums for all claimed nutrients. Acceptable secondary and micronutrients are: calcium, magnesium, sulfur, boron, chlorine, cobalt, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, sodium, and zinc.

The following is required as specified in CCR Section 2303 on a packaged agricultural mineral label:

1. **Product name** (*The name should not be misleading as to the purpose and guarantees*)

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2. **Measurement** (net content) (*U.S. and metric*)
3. **Licensee's name and address** (*Guarantor. If both manufacturer and distributor are given, state "Guaranteed by:" in front of the appropriate company name*)
4. **A guaranteed analysis using the following format, terminology, and order presented:** (*Please note: Zero guarantees and guarantees below the set minimums should not be made on the label, unless they are exempt per Section 2307 of the CCR. If mention is made of a fertilizing material outside of the guaranteed analysis, a guarantee should be given for that material. For example: If a label guarantees values for magnesium and iron, but not sulfur, and then mentions the benefits of sulfur on the label, a value for sulfur should be guaranteed.*)

Guaranteed Analysis: (Guarantee minimums, if claimed)

The sum of the N + P + K values is less than 5 percent and the product is intended for commercial use, and/or only secondary or micronutrients are guaranteed.

Total Nitrogen (N)	X%	
X% Ammoniacal Nitrogen		Please note that the sum of the all guaranteed forms of nitrogen must equal the total nitrogen guarantee.
X% Nitrate Nitrogen		
X% Water Soluble Nitrogen		
X% Water Insoluble Nitrogen		
Available Phosphoric Acid (P ₂ O ₅)	X% (or, Available Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅))	
Soluble Potash (K ₂ O)	X%	
Calcium (Ca)	X%	1.0000%
Magnesium (Mg)	X%	0.5000%
Sulfur (S)	X%	1.0000%
Boron (B)	X%	0.0200%-If ≥ 0.1%, → WARNING,
Chlorine (Cl)	X%	0.1000% See Section 2300 (h) of
Cobalt (Co)	X%	0.0005% the CCR.
Copper (Cu)	X%	0.0500%
X% Chelated Copper (If guaranteed. Give chelating agent in the derivation statement.)		
Iron (Fe)	X%	0.1000%
X% Chelated Iron (If guaranteed)		
Manganese (Mn)	X%	0.0500%
X% Chelated Manganese (If guaranteed. Give chelating agent in the derivation statement.)		
Molybdenum (Mo)	X%	0.0005%-If ≥ 0.001%, → WARNING,
Sodium (Na)	X%	0.1000% See Section 2300 (i) of
Zinc (Zn)	X%	0.0500% the CCR.
X% Chelated Zinc (If guaranteed. Give chelating agent in the derivation statement.)		

5. **Derivation Statement** (*Derived from: ... list the chemical sources for the above guarantees. Abbreviated chemical names, trade names, and trademarks are prohibited from the derivation statement.*)

Heavy metals: Effective January 1, 2002, the Fertilizing Materials Law and Regulations have been revised to include standards for heavy metals. These regulations are found in Sections 2302 and 2303 (s) of the CCR. The regulations require that in lieu of a statement on the label, each **inorganic** product containing **iron, manganese, zinc, or phosphates**, shall contain either the statement, "Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available by calling 1-800-XXX-XXXX," or the statement, "Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available on the internet at [http://www.\(add company name\).com](http://www.(add company name).com)."

Please note: The best (most uniform between all states) method for addressing heavy metals compliance is to state, "Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available on the internet at <http://www.aapfco.org/metals.htm>." If this method is used, submit a chemical analysis, at registration, to FFLDRS for **ALL** of the following metals: Arsenic (As), Cadmium (Cd), Cobalt (Co), Copper (Cu), Lead (Pb), Mercury (Hg), Molybdenum (Mo), Nickel (Ni), and Selenium (Se). This proactive action may save you months of valuable time and costly label revisions.

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Auxiliary Soil and Plant Substances (ASPS)

Defined in Section 14513 of the Food and Agricultural Code, “means any chemical or biological substance or mixture of substances or device distributed in this state to be applied to soil, plants, or seeds for soil corrective purposes; or which is intended to improve germination, growth, yield, product quality, reproduction, flavor, or other desirable characteristics of plants; or which is intended to produce any chemical, biochemical, biological, or physical change in soil; except that it shall not include commercial fertilizers, agricultural minerals, economic poisons, soil amendments, or manures. It shall include the following: synthetic polyelectrolytes; lignin or humus preparation; wetting agents to promote water penetration; bacterial inoculants; microbial products, including genetically engineered microorganisms; soil binding agents; biotics, and any similar product intended to be used for influencing soils, plant growth, or crop or plant quality.”

The following is required as specified in CCR Section 2303 on an auxiliary soil & plant substance label:

1. **Product name** *(The name should not be misleading as to the purpose and guarantees)*
2. **Measurement** (net content) *(U.S. and metric)*
3. **Licensee's name and address** *(Guarantor. If both manufacturer and distributor are given, state “Guaranteed by:” in front of the appropriate company name)*
4. **Directions for use** *(Should be for the specific product)*
5. **The statement “NONPLANT FOOD INGREDIENT”** *(Printed in capital letters)*
6. **A statement of composition** *(This should show the percent of each active ingredient, which is the agent in a product primarily responsible for the intended effects, to the left of the ingredient, as noted below.)*
7. **Submit a Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) with the registration application**

Please note: *If added to a commercial fertilizer, specialty fertilizer or agricultural mineral, the following format shall appear below the derivation statement:*

ALSO CONTAINS NONPLANT FOOD INGREDIENT(S): *(Printed in capital letters)*

X% Humic Acids derived from ... (list the source of the humic acids, e.g. leonardite)

(Please note: The only claim we allow for Humic Acids is that “they may increase micronutrient uptake.”)

X% Wetting Agent *(Provide exact chemical name)*

X% Surfactants

X% Polymers *(Provide exact chemical name)*

X% Soil Penetrants *(Provide exact chemical name)*

X% Seaweed Extract

X% Kelp (*Ascophyllum Nodosum*)

X% *Yucca Schidigera*

(Not a complete list)

Please note: *if biotics are guaranteed, FFLDERS requires the following additional information per Section 2304 of the CCR:*

1. **Name of each species and strains as part of the statement of composition and name of each by-product, if claimed.** *(The full species name without abbreviations)*
2. **The percentage or number of viable units of microorganisms per cubic centimeter and/or the concentration in percentage of enzymes or other organism by-products claimed.** *(cfu/cc)*

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3. **Expiration date** (You may leave a space noted by, “Expiration date:____” where the actual date will be stamped or printed later)
4. **Storage conditions**
5. Submit a **generally accepted laboratory method** for assaying the viable and attenuated units and the by-products claimed with the registration application.
6. Submit a **laboratory analysis** verifying the microbial guarantees.

Packaged Soil Amendments (PSA)

Defined in Section 14552 of the Food and Agricultural Code, “means any substance distributed for the purpose of promoting plant growth or improving the quality of crops by conditioning soils solely through physical means. It includes all of the following: hay, straw, peat moss, leaf mold, sand, wood products, any product or mixture of products intended for use as a potting medium, planting mix, or soil less growing media, manures sold without guarantees for plant nutrients, and any other substance or product which is intended for use solely because of its physical properties.”

The following is required as specified in CCR Section 2303 on a packaged soil amendment label:

1. **Product name**
2. **Measurement** (volume) (*U.S. and metric*)
3. **Licensee’s name and address** (*Guarantor. If both manufacturer and distributor are given, state “Guaranteed by:” in front of the appropriate company name*)
4. **Purpose of product** (*Should not be misleading as to the guarantees*)
5. **Directions for use** (*Should be for the specific product*)
6. **A list of ingredients** (*Shall be in order of decreasing amounts present*)

Please note: If a WETTING AGENT is included in the list of ingredients, FFLDERS requires the exact chemical name of the wetting agent on the registration application or in another form of writing. The exact name is not required on the product label, “a wetting agent,” is acceptable on the label. The name shall be kept confidential.

Organic and Natural Claims

Organic: A material that only contains carbon and one or more elements other than hydrogen and oxygen, which is essential for plant growth. ***(Please note: The term “organic” can only be used if the product is entirely derived from carbon based plant or animal sources. If 50% or more of a product is derived from organic sources, you may state, “organic base,” or “organic based.” A copy of the certificate from a recognized third party certifying agency compliant with NOP is required for products certified for use in organic production.)***

Natural: A mineral nutrient source that exists in or is produced by nature and may be altered from its original state only by physical manipulation.

Misbranding and Adulteration

Per Article 12, Section 14681 of the Food and Agricultural Code, no person shall distribute misbranded fertilizing materials. A fertilizing material shall be deemed misbranded under any of the following conditions:

- (a) If its labeling is false or misleading in any particular.
- (b) If it is distributed under the name of another fertilizing material.

(c) If it is not labeled as required by regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter.

(d) If it purports to be, or is represented as, a fertilizing material, or is represented as containing a primary or secondary plant nutrient or micronutrients, or both, unless the plant nutrients conform to the definition of identity, if any, prescribed by regulation. In adopting these regulations, due regard shall be given to commonly accepted definitions and official fertilizer terms such as those prescribed by the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials.

Unacceptable Terms and Claims

There are no official definitions for the following four terms. They are considered misleading and are not allowed on fertilizing material labels. Refer to Section 14681 (a) of the Food and Agricultural Code: **Balanced**, **Biostimulant**, **Stimulant**, and **Complete**.

Before the following claims may appear on product labels, FFLDERS requires the support of efficacy data substantiating their benefit to plants and soils: **Amino Acids**, **Enzymes**, **Fulvic Acids**, **Organic Acids**, and **Vitamins** (*Vitamin B₁ is acceptable if nutrients are guaranteed on the product label.*)

The following terms shall not be included on labels for products that only contain fertilizing materials, as they imply disease free or disease resistance, which is not the intended purpose of fertilizing materials: **Health**, **Healthy**, **Healthier**, and **Healthiest** (*Please note: the terms “vigor,” “vigorous,” “strong,” “strongest,” etc... are acceptable alternatives.*)

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Do all fertilizing materials for agricultural use require registration?

No, commercial fertilizers and bulk agricultural minerals are exempt from registration; however, firms are still required to follow all the labeling laws and regulations. Bulk soil amendments are exempt from both licensing and labeling requirements.

What about fertilizers that contain pesticides?

Fertilizers that make pesticide claims may require dual registration with FFLDRS and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). DPR may be contacted at (916) 445-4400.

Are the registration fees refundable?

No. Registration fees are product label review fees and are not refundable. Overpayments will be refunded or noted as credit on your account.

If I distribute or sell bulk fertilizing material, am I required to include a label?

Yes, products shall be accompanied by a label compliant with the Fertilizing Materials Law and Regulations.

Where can I obtain copies of the licensing and/or registration applications?

Applications are available at: http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/apply_register.html or by contacting FFLDRS at 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-5607, or by calling (916) 445-0444.

What is required with the application for licensing and/or registration?

Provide the following information with a fertilizing materials license application: a completed application, verification of qualification/statement of citizenship, and a license fee of \$100.

Provide the following information with a fertilizing materials label registration application: a completed application, an application for a license if not currently licensed, one 8 ½ x 11 copy of each product label, \$100 registration fee for each product label to be registered, and appropriate data.

Who requires a fertilizing materials license?

Any individual or company who manufactures or distributes fertilizing materials in California shall, before they engage in the activity, obtain a Commercial Fertilizing Materials License for each plant and business location they operate.

Do I need both a license and product label registration?

All firms are required to have a current license. However, not all product labels require registration.

Who needs to register product labels?

The guarantor of packaged specialty fertilizers, packaged agricultural minerals, auxiliary soil and plant substances, and packaged soil amendments is required to register product labels.

How long is the license or registration valid?

A fertilizing materials license is for a two-year period that commences January 1, of each odd-numbered year and expires on December 31 of, the next even-numbered year.

A product label registration for fertilizing materials is for a two-year period that commences January 1, of each even-numbered year and expires on December 31, of the next odd-numbered year.

How long does the application process take?

The length of the application process varies. Applications are reviewed based upon the date they are received. Typically, it takes approximately ten (10) to twelve (12) weeks to review and respond to a submission. Each response or additional submission is subject to the same ten (10) to twelve (12) week response time. If staff determines a scientific evaluation is necessary, the process could take longer. We currently approve approximately one fourth of the labels without revisions, this means the majority of firms must resubmit their labels with corrections.

Can I challenge the Departments scientific findings?

Yes. A rebuttal may be submitted to clarify deficiencies found in the studies, or additional supporting data may be submitted to substantiate company claims.

???? Questions – Please contact FFLDERS staff at (916) 445-0444.

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Agricultural Commodities and Regulatory Services

